

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19-23 are pending in this application. Claims 8 and 18 are canceled herein. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-17, and 19-21 have been amended and claims 22 and 23 have been added herein. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) as being anticipated by *Lippincott, et al.*

However, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended such that they now include limitations nowhere even suggested, much less taught, by *Lippincott, et al.*

More specifically, the independent claims now include a limitation wherein polygon shapes that have been altered, such as by OPC (optical proximity connections), are compared to the original shape of the polygon, and then violating areas (i.e. areas that violate the mask rules) that are inside the original polygon shape are manipulated in a first manner and violating areas that are outside of the original polygon shape are manipulated in another manner.

New dependent claims 22 and 23 have been added to ensure full and complete coverage of Applicant's invention. These claims are also believed allowable for depending from claims deemed allowable.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issuance. If the Examiner should have any questions, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the appropriate fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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